Bay Management Study Pilot Project Description

Applicant

Friends of Taunton Bay

Geographic Area

Taunton Bay (at the head of Frenchman Bay), includes Hog and Egypt Bays

Major Activities Planned

- 1. Identify and bring together stakeholder groups to identify areas of conflict and agreement. *Purpose*: Clarify issues of importance; Work towards conflict resolution; Promote education, information sharing and relationship building among stakeholders.
- 2. Develop suite of indicators of ecosystem health. *Purpose*: Provide information on the current state of the bay in order to track changes in the future.
- 3. Conduct a socioeconomic inventory and analysis of watershed resources. *Purpose*: Provide an assessment of the importance of a healthy Taunton Bay to local communities.
- 4. Create GIS maps of study area that indicate locations of existing and historical uses, important marine habitats, areas of economic significance and sources of pollution. *Purpose*: Provide graphic representation of data and findings.
- 5. Develop a potential new model of decision-making for bay management. *Purpose*: Compare different models of management and propose a design that works best in the Taunton Bay region.

Governance Model to be Explored

The Friends of Taunton Bay would like to explore establishing an ongoing, interaction relationship between their local group and state agencies for information sharing, problem solving and decision-making. Two of the specific ideas they suggested were: 1) Drafting uniform shellfish and worm ordinances for regional towns; and 2) Establishing zones of allowable activities in specific areas.





